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January 5, 2012

E-FILING

Ms. Cynthia A. Brown
Chief of Administration, Office of Proceedings
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20423-0001

ENTERED
Office of Proceedings
JAN - 6 2012
Part of
Public Record

RE: FD 35559, Saratoga and North Creek Railway, LLC
Operation Exemption Tahawus Line

Dear Ms. Brown:

I am writing on behalf of the Town of Newcomb, NY, in support of the application by the Saratoga and North Creek Railway, LLC, for an exemption to provide common carrier freight railroad service over the Tahawus Line. As the attached Town Resolution states, provision of freight rail service over this line is crucial to the economic well-being of this portion of northern New York State including the towns of Newcomb and Minerva, the County of Essex, and surrounding communities.

Please consider our views in rejecting the arguments of those who oppose the provision of common carrier freight railroad service.

Respectfully submitted,

George Canon

George Canon

Cc: all parties

**RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF SARATOGA AND NORTH CREEK
RAILWAY'S APPLICATION TO THE SURFACE TRANSPORTATION
BOARD FOR RE-ACTIVATION OF
TAHAWUS – NORTH CREEK RAIL LINE**

WHEREAS, Saratoga and North Creek Railway has applied to the Surface Transportation Board (STB) for an exemption to re-activate the Tahawus-North Creek rail line, and;

WHEREAS, NL Industries considered the option of the rail and tie removal in the early 1990's to salvage the scrap value and provide property tax relief, and;

WHEREAS, The Towns of Newcomb and Minerva promoted a transfer of conditional ownership to the Essex County Industrial Development Agency to provide for property tax relief, and;

WHEREAS, The primary reasoning for the actions of the Towns of Newcomb and Minerva was the recognition of the many assets located at the Tahawus site and the possible need for rail traffic to fully realize the potential job creation by the use of those assets, and;

WHEREAS, It is in the interest of the Towns of Newcomb and Minerva, the County of Essex and the surrounding Adirondack communities to utilize the assets located at Tahawus, and;

WHEREAS, The North Country Regional Council Plan, recently completed, identified restoration of rail service as a major component of the region's economic health and called for the retention of all existing rail lines.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Town of Newcomb fully supports Saratoga and North Creek Railways's application to the STB and commits its resources to a grant of the railroad's application.

I, Mary Pound, Clerk of the Town of Newcomb, do hereby certify that I have compared the foregoing copy with the original resolution filed in this office on the 1st of January 2012, and it is a correct and true copy thereof.

In testimony thereof, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the seal of the Town of Newcomb on this 1st day of January 2012.

Mary Pound, Town Clerk